

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 30-31 is acknowledged with appreciation. In order to expedite the issuance of Claims 30-31, the following actions have been taken in this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer: Claim 29 and non-elected Claims 32-43 have been cancelled; Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form; Claim 31 has been amended to depend from Claim 30 for appropriate antecedent basis; and Claims 44 and 45 have been amended to depend from Claim 30. By virtue of the foregoing, Claims 30-31 and 44-47 are pending and in condition for allowance.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement, it is noted that the Japan Society of Applied Physics article was cited and discussed in the specification and should have been considered to that extent. As the article was already considered in the parent application, consideration in the present application is appropriate. See M.P.E.P. § 609.02. Confirmation of consideration with the next official communication would be most appreciated.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

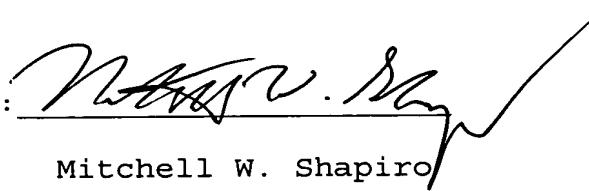
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16

and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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October 17, 2006